

LIBRARY CLOSURE

Of Darlington Borough Council's planned cuts, the proposal to close Cockerton Library is one of the least acceptable.

This well-used library serves a wide area and is used by many children from local schools. Its closure would be a huge loss to families in the Cockerton area.

The closure proposal is illogical and bewildering. A full review of Darlington's library service found that it has one of the highest active borrower rates in the country, its expenditure per head of population is one of the lowest and it is the **WORST** in the country in provision of floor space. Cockerton library accounts for a third of all books borrowed.

These findings indicate that Darlington needs more investment in libraries, not less, and that we certainly should not close Cockerton.

At a public meeting, a loudly-applauded suggestion was that the council should close the biased Town Crier (or any proposed replacement), and use the savings to keep open Cockerton library. Town Crier information could go out in the unbiased Northern Echo and the free newspapers.

I'll work with any group to keep Cockerton library open.

**Councillor Fred Lawton
(Lib Dem),
Darlington**